

SFI weekly newsletter for the week of October 12, 2009
A weekly service of SFI



Fifth Annual SFI Poster Session and Banquet Tonight!
Posters from 4:00 to 5:45 Banquet at 6:00

SFI NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. *Global Watershed GK12 Fellowships: Diving Deep into Water Topics with Middle School Teachers, Students*
2. Water Project in Ghana by Julian Mills-Beale and Michael Kivisalu --Tuesday October 20th --Dillman 214 6-7pm

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

1. 2010 edition of the College Sustainability Report Card
2. New Biogas Firm in Eaton Rapids, MI

SEMINARS

1. David Shonnard "Transportation Fuels from Forest Resources: Are They Sustainable?" Monday, October 19th
2. SFI member Audrey L. Mayer, Social Sciences, Monday, October 26, 2009

FUNDING & AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

1. Education Session on Proposal Writing Set-- 12 to 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22, in Memorial Union Ballroom A2

JOBS & POST DOCS, INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, and SCOLARSHIPS

1. **UofM Faculty Position in the Sustainable Built Environment: Ecological Assessment and Design**

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

1. 2010 Great Lakes Commission Semi-Annual Meeting and Great Lakes Days, Washington, DC February 21-24
2. Series of Cool-Air Cool-Planet Webinars

In an effort to increase recognition and enhance SFI's image, we want to include more publicity about SFI member achievements. Please send announcements of your publications, presentations, awards, and names of awarded proposals to Denise Heikinen at dmheikin@mtu.edu.

SFI NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. *Global Watershed GK12 Fellowships: Diving Deep into Water Topics with Middle School Teachers, Students*

Starting this fall, Michigan Tech PhD students will begin an in-depth, collaborative effort to bring the engineering, natural science and political aspects of water resources to middle school students and their teachers. Professor Alex Mayer (CEE), director of the SFI's Center for Water and Society, anticipates that the effort will go beyond raising young people's awareness of water issues. "Our goal is to give our doctoral students enthusiasm for communicating their work and a lifelong commitment to working with K12 schools," he said.

Over its five-year length, the \$2.5-million program will provide two-year Global Watershed GK12 fellowships to 18 PhD students, starting with five in summer 2010. The fellowships will consist of a generous stipend and tuition and fees. Each

participant will be paired with a middle school teacher. Under the supervision of their teachers, the graduate students will deliver lessons on water-related topics, including their own work. They will also serve as a resource for their teacher on water-related topics. The students will work in school districts throughout the western and central Upper Peninsula. In districts that serve a high proportion of Native American students, they will work with a consultant to make sure their lessons reflect native culture. /

Coprincipal investigators on the grant are Associate Professor Nancy Auer (Biological Sciences), Associate Professor Linda Nagel (SFRES), Chair Bradley Baltensperger (Cognitive and Learning Sciences) and Shawn Oppliger, director of the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education).

2. Water Project in Ghana by Julian Mills-Beale and Michael Kivisalu --Tuesday October 20th --Dillman 214 6-7pm

Julian Mills-Beale, PhD Candidate, Civil & Env. Dept. and Michael Kivisalu, PhD Candidate, Mech. Dept.

The project involves the construction of an integrated water filtration and supply system to rural and underprivileged societies in Ghana to: 1) Reduce to the barest minimum the water-related diseases in those communities; 2) Provide solar electrical power for some basic services in the communities. In this project, a standard borehole water project with a depth of between 20 to 45 feet will be constructed with additional solar-powered unit for both the pumping and filtration of the water supply. This innovative project – the first of its kind worldwide – will be commenced on a pilot level at Danchira, a farming community, about 50 kilometers from Accra, the capital city of Ghana. The project team expects to extend it to other parts of Ghana to promote the country's drive towards achieving sustainability. The benefits are far reaching including the reducing poverty and elevating the standard of living of the inhabitants through good health. The objectives of the project are: 1) The design of a water borehole unit that is integrated with a filtration system both powered by an attached solar electrical system; 2) Conduct a feasibility studies on the most ideal geological location at Danchira in Accra, Ghana for the first implementation of this innovative water borehole project; 3) Market the concept to international funding and grant agencies to obtain the necessary funds for the project; 4) Implement, monitor, evaluate and manage the integrated water borehole project while transferring the technical knowledge to water engineers and experts in Ghana; 5) Transfer the technology to other rural parts of Ghana after the first project in Danchira.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

1. 2010 edition of the College Sustainability Report Card

The 2010 edition of the College Sustainability Report Card shows that despite the economic woes facing many colleges, many also made significant progress in adopting "green" policies. Grades are awarded based on reporting in a series of categories, including policies on climate change, food, recycling, buildings, transportation, endowments and so forth. A new feature of the project this year is to make the colleges' responses to survey questions public so students or prospective students can examine the status at their institutions and comparison groups. Twenty-six colleges earned A-, the top grade this year. They are: Amherst, Carleton, Dickinson, Luther, Macalester, Middlebury, Oberlin, Pomona, Smith and Williams Colleges; Arizona State, Brown, Harvard, Pacific Lutheran, Stanford, Wesleyan and Yale Universities; the College of the Atlantic; and the Universities of California at San Diego, Colorado, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Washington. <http://www.greenreportcard.org/>

2. New Biogas Firm in Eaton Rapids, MI

More at www.uts-residuals.com

SEMINARS

1. Transportation Fuels from Forest Resources: Are They Sustainable? Monday, October 19th

David R. Shonnard, Chem Eng, Director, Sustainable Futures Institute, Dow 642 3:00 pm
Environmental Engineering Seminar Series

2. SFI member Audrey L. Mayer, Social Sciences, Monday, October 26, 2009

Environmental Engineering Seminar Series
Dow 642 3:00 pm

FUNDING & AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

To submit research proposals through the Sustainable Futures Institute, add "SFI" to the DEPT/CENTER/INSTITUTE(S) column for identifying the PI's and co-PI's. SFI Director, David Shonnard, will sign the transmittal sheet on page 3. (If David Shonnard is unavailable for signing transmittal sheets, Rick Donovan can also sign for SFI). Submitting proposals under SFI provides wider publicity and recognition for your research as well as a 10% return on your incentive account.

1. Education Session on Proposal Writing Set-- 12 to 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22, in Memorial Union Ballroom A2

Sponsored Programs is offering an educational session, "Proposal Processing," from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22, in Memorial Union Ballroom A2. Topics to be covered:

Research Excellence Fund (REF)--Infrastructure Enhancement, Research Seed, Mentoring Grant--all internal funding opportunities.

Community of Science (COS)--Finding funding and collaborators.

Proposal writing. Register at: <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/research/vpr/registration/>.

Desserts and beverages will be provided; bring your own lunch.

For more information, contact Dawn Pichette at 487-2226 or at dmpichet@mtu.edu

JOBS & POST DOCS & INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS and CFPs

1. UofM Faculty Position in the Sustainable Built Environment: Ecological Assessment and Design

The University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) is seeking a candidate to fill a full time, nine-month, tenure track assistant professor position to contribute to research and teaching on the Sustainable Built Environment, with a particular emphasis on Ecological Assessment and Design of urban environments, structures and infrastructure. We seek candidates with expertise in theories and methods of assessment, modeling, performance measurement, visualization and other approaches that can help decision makers in urban areas achieve higher levels of sustainability. We are purposely casting a broad net recognizing that important perspectives are provided by a wide range of expertise, including -- but not limited to -- industrial ecology, ecological planning and design, ecosystem services and valuation, and systems engineering.

This position is being created through the President's new Interdisciplinary Junior Faculty Initiative which created a cluster of three positions focusing on the Sustainable Built Environment within SNRE, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning (TCAUP). More information can be found at: <http://www.sbe.umich.edu>

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

1. 2010 Great Lakes Commission Semi-Annual Meeting and Great Lakes Days, Washington, DC February 21-24
<http://www.glc.org/greatlakesday/>

2. Series of Cool-Air Cool-Planet Webinars

We have a number of upcoming webinars on carbon management and the carbon impacts of food production

We invite you to register on our website for these exciting programs:

Click here https://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/Webinar_Registration/registration.php for Webinar Registration

Details on the webinars and guest speakers may be found below. See website above for more details.

October 2009

October 20 - 12 noon diamond Climate Action Planning, Focusing on Methane, Webinar

October 20 - 3 pm diamond Solutions Module and Climate Action Plans, Question Hour

October 27 diamond Climate Action Planning with the Campus Carbon Calculator™, Webinar

October 29 diamond Carbon Markets and Offsets, Webinar

November 2009

November 3 diamond Inventories and Projections, Question Hour

November 10 diamond Local Food and Food Security, Webinar

November 17 diamond Reducing the Climate Impact of Dining Service, Webinar

November 19 diamond Climate Action Planning with the Campus Carbon Calculator™, Webinar

November 24 diamond Solutions Module and Climate Action Plans, Question Hour